

November 24, 2015

5162 S Sapphire Circle
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

The Honorable Klint Kesto, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Kesto,

I am writing in support of House Bill 4869 introduced by Representative Andy Schor and co-sponsored by Representatives Kelly, Zemke and Callton. House Bill 4869 has been scheduled for testimony before your committee on December 1, 2015.

In August of 2013, I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is a life-threatening disease requiring immediate and continuous care by an oncologist, radiologist, surgeon and/or other cancer specialist. These physicians provide a life-line and hope for patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Earlier this year, my oncologist was called for jury duty. This resulted in delayed care for many of her patients and postponed appointments for those recently diagnosed. Fortunately she was not selected as a juror, but had she been, the effect on her patients would have been even more devastating.

My concerns may seem exaggerated to some but when you are diagnosed with a disease with a six month survival rate of 50% and a five year survival rate of 5%, your fear and anxiety are all consuming. The continuity of the physician/patient relationship is vital.

I speak on behalf of critically ill patients who have been and will be affected by an interruption in care caused by the absence of their physicians. I would be there in person for the hearing but we are out of state visiting children and grandchildren.

Please support House Bill 4869 which states that physicians MAY claim an exemption from jury service when treating a patient with "immediate, imminent, and life-threatening health issues."

Sincerely,

Jody Vanderveen

Cc: Representative Andy Schor